

**From:** EJBrofka@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Regarding the proposed settlement in this case, I feel very strongly that it should go forward as is.

The reasons that this suit was initially filed were poor from the onset. There was a lot of political influence exerted by the previous administration in bowing to some major contributors who just happened to be in competition with Microsoft. Now, after a more enlightened review by the current administration of the previous legal processes that took place, a settlement has been proposed and accepted by Microsoft DOJ. There remains, however, an intense degree of partisan political pressure by Attorneys General of certain states to try to get into Microsoft's pockets. This, in my humble opinion, is the true reason why those states are not agreeing with the settlement.

I would like to go on record as stating that I think that Microsoft has been the single most effective driving force in the "computer revolution" of late twentieth century. It, by virtue of its programs and technology, has put the power of personal computing into the hands of the people in a simple, straightforward and eminently usable fashion. Microsoft products, most importantly Windows and Internet Explorer, have enabled the general populace to partake in and to become part of the greatest information flow that this world had ever seen.

I have, from the very inception of the DOJ suit, felt that the suit was unfair, that it was ill-conceived, and that it was totally unnecessary. Microsoft has done nothing wrong in its actions. They are a good business and have acted aggressively to sell, to enhance and to protect their excellent products. Microsoft has been successful because of those efforts and its products. No one has been or even now is forced to use them. I think that the proprietary information that has been developed by Microsoft for its operation systems should remain just that: proprietary. Those competitors who have "suffered" have done so because of the inadequacies of their competing systems and programs. The truth of the matter is that they need to give the consumer/PC user a better product if they wish to succeed. That's the basis of business success in this country.

On the other hand, the greatest business foibles have occurred wherever and whenever the government has gotten involved in business, productivity and efficiency, areas in which it has no history of proficiency. One just needs to look at some of the government regulations that have been imposed upon business under the mistaken guise of "helping the consumer." A good (and appropriate) example is the "new and improved" water-saving toilet promulgated and forced into use by the previous administration - - - you know, the ones that use one-third less water, but that you have to flush three times to have them work properly. Amazing! Al Gore and Ms. Browner

have earned a very special place in history for that one.

Let this settlement go forward as agreed and approved. Enough is enough. I am a consumer who has NOT been hurt in any way by Microsoft. As a matter of fact, I have been helped to an immense degree, and I personally feel that Microsoft should be honored, not sued.

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